

Government of Maharashtra. If so, what steps have been taken to resolve this issue?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, there is no such conflict between the Mumbai Port Trust and the State Government of Maharashtra. And, there is no such conflict in any of the States.

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Is any officer been designated to monitor the progress of the Port Trust plan and coordinate with the State Government?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the Chairman, Port Trust, and other officers are there to take care of the development. In the report, there is no specific mention about it.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSH: Sir, this is a very important question from the point of view of the city of Mumbai. I would like to put a specific question to the hon. Minister. What is the policy with regard to removing of slum dwellers or giving them alternative accommodations, who are in existence on such plots of the Port Trust for the last several years? Is the policy of the Port Trust, that is, the Government of India and the policy of the Government of Maharashtra same?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, there is no specific policy with regard to vacation of the slum dwellers. The State Government, the Central Government and the Port Trust authorities will have to put together heads and see that this social problem is sorted out.

Financial Assistance for Sports Infrastructure to Sikkim

*403. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance is being granted to the State of Sikkim for sports infrastructure development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith the incentives being given to sportspersons like Bhai Chung Bhutia, India's Football captain?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes have been transferred to the State Sector with effect from 1.4.2005 and the Ministry was only meeting committed liabilities upto the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan. Hence, State Governments will have to fund new sports infrastructure projects from their own resources. They may also seek financial support from the Planning Commission in the State Plan or through Additional Central Assistance. It is also possible for the states in the North East to secure funding from the North-Eastern Council in the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER). Thus, for example, DONER had sanctioned Rs. 15.36 crores in 2001-02 for the upgradation of the Paljor Stadium in Sikkim, which was completed during 2004-05.

(b) Although, during the last three years, no funds have been provided to Sikkim under Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes, the Government of India have recognized the contribution of sports persons of excellence from Sikkim such as Shri Baichung Bhutia and Shri Tarundeep Rai by conferring upon them the prestigious Arjuna Award.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I would like to know whether the Minister will be replying on his personal behalf, or, on behalf of the Government...*(Interruptions)*... No; no, this is a very mute question here that the Minister has gone public with his differences with the policies of the Government...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, this House has a right to know whether the Minister is replying in his personal capacity or he is replying on behalf of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the Prime Minister clarify it. ...*(Interruptions)*... यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is a Minister....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Is he with the Government? Or, is he not with the Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is your Sports Minister...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: यह सवाल पूरा देश जानना चाहता है। यह सदन नहीं, पूरा देश जानना चाहता है कि यह मंत्री जी की हैसियत से जवाब दे रहे हैं यह व्यक्तिगत हैसियत से जवाब दे रहे हैं।

श्री सभापति: मंत्री की हैसियत से जवाब दे रहे हैं। आप बैठ जाइए।

श्री यशवंत सिन्हा: बैठ कैसे जाएं? प्राइम मिनिस्टर यहां उपस्थित हैं, वे इस बात को क्लैरीफाई करें।...*(व्यवधान)*... उनको गवर्नमेंट की पॉलिसी पर बोलने का हक है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, a statement is laid on the Table of the House, and supplementary raised by Shri Sinha does not arise out of the question...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Central Government has formulated any scheme for the establishment of coaching centres for football players in the country, particularly in the North-Eastern Region? What is the planning being chalked out by the Government to produce best football players in the country, like, Mr. Bhutia, the captain of Indian Football Team?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, we have Special Area Games Centre of the Sports Authority of India operating at Namchi in Sikkim. Training is imparted there in several disciplines, including that of archery, boxing, taekwando and football also. Fifty Sportspersons are being trained at this centre. The original question applied only to Sikkim. But the hon. Member has extended his supplementary to the North-East. Here, I would particularly like to draw your attention to the major sport centre that we have at Imphal. Training is being imparted there in a number of sports disciplines. Very recently, we also had the National Games at Guwahati and considerable sports infrastructure was provided there. I am very happy to inform the House that the performance of the North-East players was exceptionally good at those game.

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Sir, as the Central Government is aware of the Commonwealth Games, 2010, will be held in India. Keeping that in view, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has formulated any plan for improvement in the football game so that excellent football players could be produced; and, if so, the details thereof.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, we have proposals from the

Organizing Committee for an expenditure of Rs. 1500 crores on the training of the sportspersons in different sports disciplines that are relevant to the Commonwealth Games. But, as of now, it is really a small figure of Rs. 300 crores that is being considered.

But we are undertaking a dialogue, individually, with each of the national sports federations to see how within the framework of their long-term development plans we could particularly concentrate on such training and other exposure which would enable us to increase our medal tally by the time we reach the Commonwealth Games 2010.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I remember to have read in the newspaper that in the recent past our hon. Prime Minister, at a function, observed that his Government was all out for promotion and development of sports and games. But, according to me, it is not so. The ground reality is otherwise. I would like to put a very specific question: Are the measures, which you have taken, marked or marginal? According to me, they are only marginal. I would like to have a specific reply from the Minister.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, we have a specific direction from the Government to prepare a comprehensive sports policy because it is clear that the National Sports Policy of 2001 has not succeeded in achieving the desired results with respect to either providing adequate infrastructure for sports in the country as a whole, or, in significantly increasing our medal tally. And, therefore, I hope that under the comprehensive sports policy, which we have started drafting in my Ministry, we will be able to provide a roadmap that has specific milestones that is marked with the expenditure that would be required, and its success can be measured in terms of specific outcomes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question...*(Interruptions)*...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I want to put a question. Our country is having a population of more than a billion...*(Interruptions)*... I am coming to that. Our performance in sports when compared with a country like China with equal population or more, or even with a smaller country is not commendable. In such a scenario, I do not know the reason as to why the Central Government is shirking from its responsibility of developing sports infrastructure. The first sentence of the answer is: "The erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes have been transferred to the

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RAJYA SABHA

State Sector with effect from 1.4.2005 and the Ministry was only meeting committed liabilities up to the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan". That means, today the Government is saying that the Central Government have no responsibility. I am unable to understand this. I want to know the rationale behind having such a wrong policy by this Government, headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh. Please explain this.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I too would love to have a detailed explanation for the rationale, but, in the process, I think, we ought to recognise that our Constitution has placed the subject of sports in Entry 33 of the State List. I think the time has come for us to reflect upon this and see the extent to which the Centre can increase its own responsibility and share it with the States. So, in the comprehensive sports policy, which my Government have directed me to prepare, we shall, certainly, be addressing this issue. In the meanwhile, we are at a very advanced stage of preparing the Panchayat Yuva Krida Abhiyan, which provides for having, at least, within a period of ten years, the minimum sports infrastructure in all the Panchayats of India. To this end, we have made a calculation as to what the expenditure for us would be. I hope, all these proposals are being taken, very shortly, to the Cabinet. Once they are passed, it would be a great pleasure and privilege to inform you of what this Government seeks to do with respect to ensuring that there is access to organised sports and games to the 72 crore Indian children, adolescents and youths who have not been reached by the previous Sports Policy of 2001. So, that is my goal-to get all the children of India involved. It is only if that happens, it is only if we have a cradle to grave Sports Policy that we will be able...(Interruptions)...

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सभापति महोदय, अब, तो चला चली की बेला है।...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR....to match countries whose population is smaller even than Delhi like Cuba which has done exceptionally well in sports. I do regret that our medal tally at Doha was 1/8th of that of the Peoples' Republic of China.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: But unless we approach this in a holistic way, we are never going to find a solution...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question, 404, Shri Sitaram Yechury
...(Interruptions)...

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सभापति महोदय, अब तो चला चली की वेला है। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: आप ठहरिए।

Housing Projects in Urban Centres

*404. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is huge demand for housing projects in the urban centres;

(b) if so, whether Government are planning to study land management in urban areas;

(c) the number of homeless living in Jhuggi-jhonpris in major cities in the country; and

(d) whether there is any plan with Government to provide housing to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Land is a state subject and therefore the responsibility to study land management in urban area primary lies with the State Government. However, in the proposed National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy special emphasis is being given to land planning and land management in urban areas such as earmarking a portion of land at affordable rates for housing for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG) at all levels including in new-public/private housing colonies, providing tenurial rights at affordable prices to urban slum dwellers with special emphasis on persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC)/ Scheduled Tribes